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Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 02261 210746Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 USIA-06 SP-02 HA-05 IO-13 SS-15 L-03 H-01
AID-05 /074 W
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P R 210732Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9968
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, KS, US
SUBJ: KOREAN MEDIA ON US-RELATED TOPICS, MARCH 21

REF: SEOUL 2138 (DTG 170808Z MAR 78)

1. CANCELLATION OF RED CROSS TALKS: SEOUL DAILIES REPORT NORTH KOREAN DECISION TO PROTEST TEAM SPIRIT EXERCISE BY BOYCOTTING SCHEDULED NORTH-SOUTH RED CROSS TALKS, ADDING GLUM SPECULATION THAT THIS COULD MARK THE END OF THE TALKS THEMSELVES.

2. KOREAGATE: MOST PAPERS REPORT WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE SAYING HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE PLANS TO OPEN PTS HEARINGS TO PUBLIC IN APRIL. HANGUK ILBO'S DC CORRESPONDENT REPORTS THAT, IN VIEW OF CONGRESS' APPARENT DISSATISFACTION WITH PTS' "INSUFFICIENT" TESTIMONY, PLUS LIKELIHOOD THAT FORMER ROK AMBASSADORS WILL NEVER TESTIFY, THERE IS NOW "ONLY A SLIM POSSIBILITY" OF PASSAGE OF SUPPLEMENTARY SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION.
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3. KIM DONG-JO TESTIMONY: TONG- ILBO, IN FRONT-PAGE FEATURE, NOTES ROK AMB KIM YONG-SIK'S MARCH 21 STATEMENT THAT, INASMUCH AS USG AND ROKG AGREE ON THE IMPROPRIETY OF TESTIMONY BY EX-AMBASSADORS, HE "DOES NOT EXPECT ANY TROUBLE" OVER THE KIM DONG-JO ISSUE. I SUPPOSED TO THIS IS QUOTE BY REP O'NEILL THAT IF

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KIM DONG-JO DOES NOT TESTIFY, THE ROK WILL NOT GET US AID.

4. TONG-A ILBO OBSERVES THAT IMPROVEMENT OF ROK-US RELATIONS IS EXPECTED TO BE CENTRAL TOPIC OF MOFA'S WESTERN HEMISPHERE CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE BEGINNING MARCH 21.
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